## This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

## IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents will not correct images, please do not report the images to the Image Problem Mailbox.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**:

1. (Currently Amended) An umbrella-type folding frame for push-chairs, comprising:

a pair of front upper and lower struts,

a pair of rear struts,

a pair of motion transmission means engagement rigid members having one end thereof

pivoted to rear struts and another end thereof slidably engaged with upper struts and secured to

thereto the lower struts,

at least one lock-release mechanism disposed between each of the upper struts and the

lower struts and connected to motion transmission means,

a lifting handle,

an articulated connection structure between said rear struts, and

one driving device located on said articulated structure at said lifting handle and

arranged to control said lock-release mechanism,

whereby actuating said driving device and lifting said lifting handle causes the folding

frame to change from an open or extended position to a closed or collapsed position.

2. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said driving

device includes a manual actuation member arranged to move from a working to a rest position

thereof.

Appl. No. 10/077,973 Docket No. 3875-0108P Art Unit: 3618

Amendment filed on March 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

3. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said driving

Page 3 of 10

device comprises a manual actuation member and a motion transmission means arranged

between said manual actuation member and said lock-release mechanism.

4. (Previously Presented) The folding structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

lifting handle comprises a support member or portion secured to said articulated connection

structure.

5. (Previously Presented) The folding frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

articulated connection structure comprises a cursor member designed to slide on a rod member

while the folding frame is being folded or unfolded.

6. (Currently Amended) The folding frame according to claim 5, wherein said driving

device comprises locking means arranged removably to secure the said lifting handle to said

cursor member or to said articulated connection structure.

7. (Currently Amended) The folding frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein said locking

means comprises an engaging tooth designed to engage with a recess provided in said cursor

member when the said articulated connection structure is in its extended position.

8. (Currently Amended) The folding frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein said locking

means comprises an a manual actuation member having an inclined-plane surface arranged to

automatically engage a tooth with a recess formed in said cursor member.

Appl. No. 10/077,973 Docket No. 3875-0108P

Art Unit: 3618

Page 4 of 10

Amendment filed on March 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

9. (Previously Presented) The folding frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein said

driving device is a manual actuation member comprising a notch in said lifting handle and a limit

member arranged to abut against said notch thereby preventing an engagement tooth from

accidentally disengaging from a recess.

10. (Previously Presented) The folding frame as in claim 9 said actuation member

comprises a loading spring.

11. (Currently Amended) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said lifting

handle comprises an oblong element carried by said articulated connection structure and a

manual actuation member comprises a lever member articulated to said oblong element and

arranged to actuate the said motion transmission means.

12. (Currently Amended) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said lifting

handle comprises a grip portion secured to said articulated connection structure and a manual

actuation member mounted for angular displacement or rotation relative to said grip portion and

a said motion transmission means between a manual actuation member and said at least one

lock-release mechanism.

13. (Currently Amended) The folding frame according to claim 4, wherein said <u>lifting</u>

handle grip comprises a rotating portion pivoted to said supporting support member or portion

Appl. No. 10/077,973 Docket No. 3875-0108P

Art Unit: 3618

Page 5 of 10

Amendment filed on March 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

and a pulley member rigidly attached to said handle and operatively connected to said motion

transmission means.

14. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said handle

is formed with a T-shaped hand grip, and a shank portion and includes an annular flanged

member operatively connected to one end of said motion transmission means, and slidably

mounted on said shank portion.

15. (Currently Amended) The folding frame as claimed in claim 14, wherein a locking

means comprises a lever member having one end thereof pivoted pivotably attached to said a

cursor member and its other end shaped as a hook, and when the holding frame is in its open

position, an engaging projecting tooth that, when folding frame is in its open position, is in

engagement with, and retained in a recess formed in said lever member.

16. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 14, comprising

resiliency means for resiliently loading said flanged member.

17. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said

handle comprises a frame lever element secured to said articulated connection structure and

operatively connected to said motion transmission means.

18. (Previously Presented) The folding frame as claimed in claim 17, wherein a

locking means comprises a lever member having one end thereof pivoted to a cursor member and

Appl. No. 10/077,973

Amendment filed on March 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

Page 6 of 10

Docket No. 3875-0108P

Art Unit: 3618

its upper end formed with an engaging tooth arranged to engage with an extension of said

articulated connection structure.

19. (Previously Presented) The folding frame as claimed in claim 18, wherein said

lever member has said upper end at least partly shaped as an inclined plane surface thereby

causing said engaging tooth automatically to engage with said extension.

20. (Currently Amended) A folding frame as claimed in claim 17, wherein a lever

member is shaped as a bell crank and is pivoted to said a frame handle, one arm of said lever

member being formed with a said tooth designed to engage with a respective recess provided in a

cursor member, and another arm extending at an angle with respect to said one arm towards said

a support block.

21. (Previously Presented) The folding frame as claimed in claim 20, wherein the bell

crank is biased by a spring.

22. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein said motion

transmission means comprises

at least one cable,

at least one lever member designed to be actuated by said driving device through the at

least one cable,

at least one engagement member arranged to be actuated by a lever member,

Appl. No. 10/077,973

Amendment filed on March 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

Docket No. 3875-0108P Art Unit: 3618

Page 7 of 10

at least one rod member slidingly carried by said upper struts and supporting the an

engagement member, thereby actuating said lock-release mechanism.

23. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 22, wherein said at

least one cable is a sheathed cable.

24. (Previously Presented) The folding frame according to claim 22, wherein said

motion transmission means comprises at least one strut component.

25. (Currently Amended) The folding frame according to claim 22, wherein said strut

component comprises at least one control rod member is slidably mounted inside a respective

tubular strut member at least one of said upper struts.

26.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The folding frame according to claim 1, wherein the said at

least one lock-release mechanism is at least one resiliently loaded control member operatively

connected to and controlled by said motion transmission means.

29. (Canceled)